



Future Telecommunications

How we get to World Class



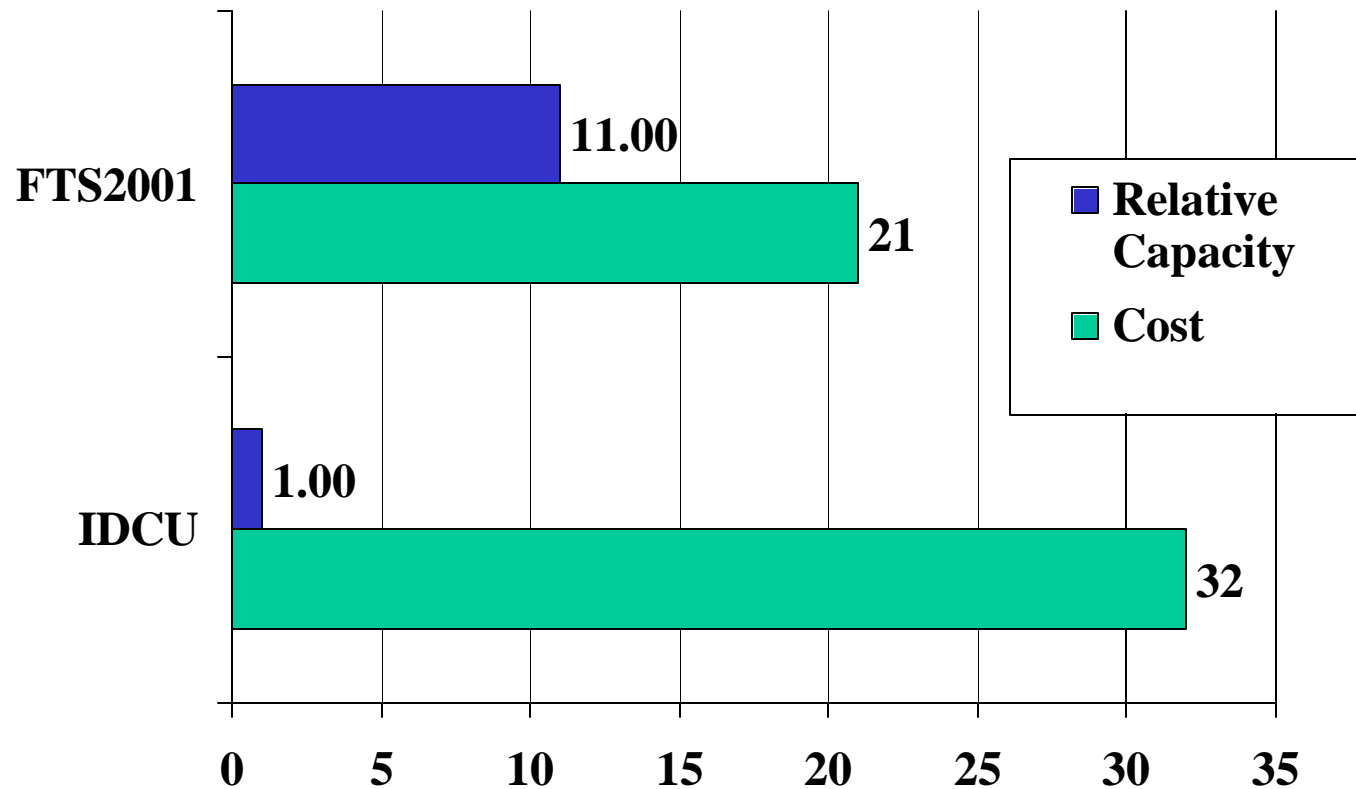
Enterprise Issues

- **The VA Enterprise Wide Area Network**
- **VA Radio Systems**
 - Mission critical systems
 - Emergency systems
- **Telephone systems**
- **Video**
 - *(To be addressed later)*





Cost versus Capacity





The Missing Pieces

- *Uniform network architecture*
- *Uniform measurement or management of the network*
- *Uniform network routing*
- *Network Security*
- *Other*





To Get to World-Class

- Create an enterprise network architecture
- Develop SLA's to ensure measurable criteria for evaluating performance and satisfaction
- Integrate network monitoring and management across the enterprise
- Manage capacity and performance





To Get to World-Class

- Develop and use VA standards for network interface (including security)
 - LANs
 - Non-VA WANs and Domains
- Consolidate network trouble reporting and tracking





The Final Touches

- The Enterprise Service Network
 - Trade circuits for service
 - Switched service (SVC)
 - Assured service
 - Secure
 - Bandwidth on Demand
 - IP-based input
 - End-to-end monitoring and management





When?

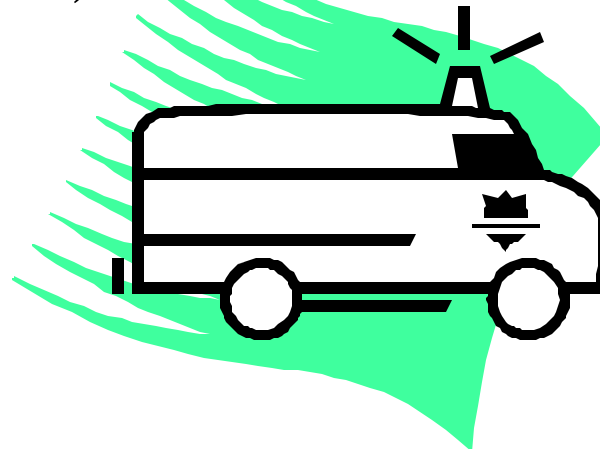
- “As built” survey due January 31, 2002
- Conversion starts March 1, 2002
- Expected finish March 31, 2003
 - Based on findings





VA Radio Systems

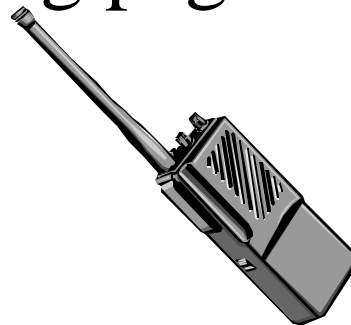
- VA's VHF and UHF radio systems support mission critical functions:
- HF radio supports SHARES (Shared Resources)





VA Radio Systems

- VA has over 3600 frequency assignments
- 1300 Radio systems at 256 sites
 - Roughly 80% are VHF
- 62,000+ individual pieces of radio gear including pagers





Narrowband Transition

- In 1996, NTIA required all government UHF and VHF radio systems to migrate to narrowband use.
 - VHF systems must be narrowband compliant by January 1, 2005
 - UHF systems have until January 1, 2008





The Situation

With 680 business days remaining before the 2005 deadline, VA has replaced only 20% of its VHF and UHF radio systems





The Situation

- The Office of Telecommunications estimates it will cost about \$90 Million to replace the remaining equipment





What Can We Do?

Plan to replace your radio system soon

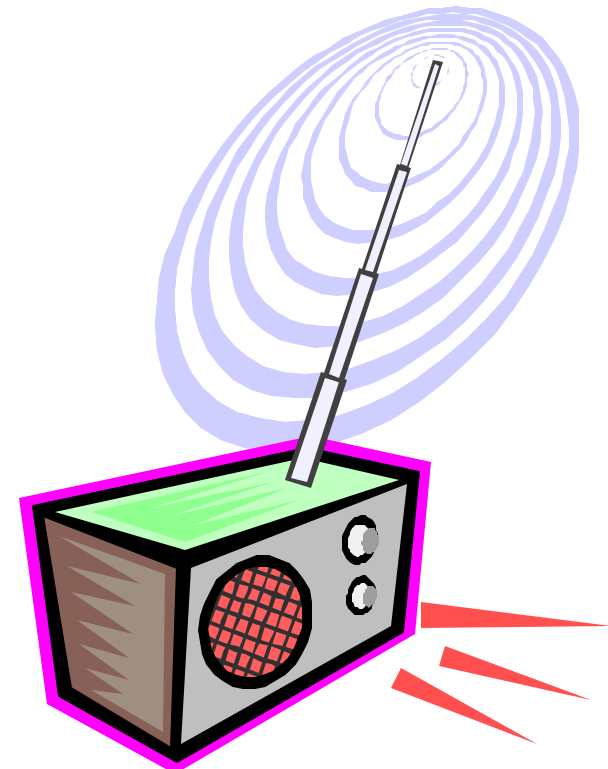




SHARES

National Communication System (NCS) program

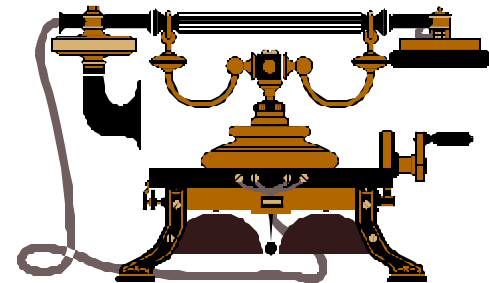
- Uses HF radios for emergency communication
- VA is a sponsor of the SHARES program





Telephones

- Equipment
 - Telephone switches will be with us for some time
 - VA needs to revisit use of a multi-vendor contract to supply and maintain switches
- VOIP needs to be considered as an enterprise tool





How You Can Help

- Support the effort to evaluate the network
- Consider the Service Level Agreement best suiting your facility
- Prepare to replace your current VHF and UHF radio system





How You Can Help

- Support the effort to reinvigorate SHARES
- Support tools to speed acquisition and deployment of telecommunications hardware and services
- Evaluate your mission critical circuits and request restoration priorities

